



January 29, 2004

Providence man is sentenced for firearms offense

A federal judge today sentenced **Tyrone Nettles**, 24, of Providence, to 51 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Providence police arrested Nettles in July, three days after he fled from police officers during a traffic stop and discarded a handgun.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office coordinated a joint prosecution of Nettles.

In November, Nettles, of 59 Congress Street pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said at the plea hearing that, on July 19, patrol officers Dennis O'Brien and Thomas Zincone observed a white car with no front license plate in the vicinity of Sorrento and Althea Streets. When the cruiser turned to follow the vehicle, the driver, later identified as Nettles, stopped the car over and got out of it. When Officer O'Brien called out to the driver, Nettles fled.

Officer O'Brien lost Nettles during a foot chase but saw him take a handgun from his pocket and later heard a gunshot from behind a house. The officers retrieved a silver, .25 caliber pistol with a spent cartridge jammed in the chamber.

On July 22, Officers O'Brien and Zincone arrested Nettles as he got into a station wagon near Wadsworth and Sorrento Streets.

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Project Safe Neighborhoods

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. The U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the case as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes and gun violence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Neronha is prosecuting the federal case. Special Assistant Rhode Island Attorney General James Dube is prosecuting a companion state case against Nettles.

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